

## Resident Minorities Workshop

### Text<sup>1</sup>

*Si dixerint dictos consules preesse omnibus de Tuscia in Acon pro tempore existentibus, dicant quomodo sciunt et si coguntur Florentini, Lucenses, Sangeminianenses, Senenses et omnes alii de Tuscia dictis consulibus subesse so nolunt; et si dixerint, quod omnes de terris predictis vocantur et habentur Pisani, dicant si ipsimet testes et alii qui eos cognoscunt habent ipsos pro Pisanis.*

*Item si dixerint dictos consules advocare et reducere ad se avere et res hominum de Tuscia morientium, qui non sunt Pisani, in partibus Sirie, possessore invito, dicant quomodo sciunt et si viderunt aliquem Tuscum, qui non esset Pisanus cogi ad restituendum, et si dixerint tertiam partem debere retineri pro com. Pisano, dicant quomodo sciunt et si ex longa consuetudine vel legi municipali, et si lege dixerint, dicant, si ipsam legem viderunt et que sunt verba legis et si ex consuetudine, dicant per quantum tempus sit obtenta et si continua.*

*[Dicit...] Item quod predicti consules presunt in Acon et in partibus Syrie omnibus Pisanis et factitiis, et omnibus qui Pisano nomine censentur, sicut sunt Florentini, Pistorienses, et Senenses et spetialiter homines S[ancti] Geminiani et etiam de Tuscia et quod predicti homines de predictis portibus et locis subsunt et obediunt dictis consulibus ibidem pro tempore existentibus tamquam dominis et consulibus eorum et quod predicti de portibus nominatis ibidem vocantur et appellantur Pisani et habentur pro Pisanis et ipsimet faciunt et appellant se Pisanos et us Pisani ibidem morantur.*

*[Dicit...] Item quod comune Pisanum et predicti consules habent et detinent in Acon locum publicum et spetialem et jurisdictionem, et publicam curiam...et quicumque sunt de predicta civitate et partibus Syrie seu etiam de regno Jerusolimitano vel aliunde, qui velint aliqua petere vel exigere a Pisanis vel ab aliis de predictis locis, seu offensi sunt ab eis, adeunt et recurrunt ad consules predictos; domini et consules cognoscunt inter ipsos et etiam invitos dirimunt et decernunt et tamquam domini puniunt et executioni mandant.*

*[Dicit...] item quod predicti consules advocant...ad se avere et res morientium predictorum locorum a quolibet possidente, etiam possessore invito, undecumque sit de Tuscia et ubicunque moriatur...in partibus nominatis sive in paganesimo et in terra Seracinorum vel in Romania seu in Cipro, dummodo avere et res morientis deveniant in Acon et inveniantur per consulem ibi existentem pro com. Pisano, et pro jure Pisane curie detinent de predicto ibi existentem pro com. Pisano, et pro jure Pisane curie detinent de predicto avere...morientis tertiam partem.*

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<sup>1</sup> Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Carte di San Gimignano, No. 42 fol. 13 ss. Text printed in R. Davidsohn, *Forschungen zur Geschichte von Florenz. II: Aus den Stadtbüchern und Urkunden von San Gimignano* (Berlin, 1900), 296-7, no. 2307. Carte 42 contains the text of a lawsuit. The first selection text was included on a separate sheet inserted loose into the bound manuscript. Explanation included in D. Abulafia, "Crocuses and Crusaders: San Gimignano, Pisa, and the Kingdom of Jerusalem," in *Outremer: Studies in the History of the Crusading Kingdom of Jerusalem* (Jerusalem, 1982), 234, n. 29, 235-6; See also D. Jacoby, "Famagusta in the Late Thirteenth Century," in *Studies on the Crusader States and on Venetian Expansion* (Northampton, 1989), VIII, 154-5, n. 54; D. Jacoby, "Crusader Acre in the Thirteenth Century: Urban Layout and Topography," in *Studies*, V, 1-45.

## Translation

[*San Gimignano, 1245*]. If [witnesses] have said that the said consuls preside over all Tuscan people residing in Acre for the time being, let them say in what manner they know if the *Florentini*, *Lucenses*, *Sangeminianenses*, *Senenses*, and all others from Tuscany are forced to be subject to the said consuls, and if they are held so against their will. And if they will have said how all [Tuscans] from the aforementioned lands are called and considered to be Pisans, they might say if the witnesses on their own accord and others who know them, regard themselves as Pisans.

Moreover, if [witnesses] have said that the said consuls summon and take for themselves also the possessions of dying men, who are not Pisans, in parts of Syria, against the will of the owner, let them say how they know; and if they have seen some Tuscan, who is not Pisan, compelled to make restitution, and if they have said that a third part ought to be retained for Pisa, let them say how they know; and if they attribute it to long custom or municipal law...let them say if they have seen the law itself, and what the words of the law are; and if out of custom, let them say for how long it might be preserved if continued...

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Moreover, [he said...] that the aforementioned consuls preside in Acre and in parts of Syria over all the Pisans, both those declaring as well as all those believed to be Pisan in name, including the *Florentini*, *Pistoriensis*, and *Senenses*, and especially men of San Gimignano indeed likewise from Tuscany. And that these aforementioned men [Tuscans] from aforementioned ports and locations surrender themselves and be obedient to the said consuls in the same place for the time being living as if [the Pisan consuls] were their own lords and consuls. And that the aforementioned men from the named ports are called and addressed as Pisans, and are regarded as Pisans, and on their own accord make and call themselves Pisans, and as Pisans they remain there.

Moreover, [he said...] that the Pisan *comune* and the aforementioned consuls possess and occupy in Acre a public place, special and by legal right, and a public court...and among all those who are of the aforementioned city [Acre], and parts of Syria, or even from the Kingdom of Jerusalem or elsewhere, there are some who wish to seek out or to demand from the Pisans or from the others the aforementioned public places; or if they have been offended by them, they go forward to have recourse with the aforementioned [Pisan] consuls; the lords and the consuls acquire knowledge amongst themselves and also unwillingly; they annul and resolve as much as they punish and mandate executions.

Moreover, [he said...] that the aforementioned consuls summon...and take for themselves also the possessions of dying people of the aforementioned places from any owner, even an unwilling owner, of wherever he may be from in Tuscany, and from wherever he may have died...in the parts [already] named, or if amongst pagan lands, or in the land of the Saracens, or in Romania, or in Cyprus, so long as the things of the dying person reach Acre and are found by the consul, residing there for the Pisan *comune*; and by the right of the Pisan court they hold back from the aforementioned [owner] a third of the dead person's [possessions].

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The Republic of Pisa was instrumental in the establishment of crusader kingdoms in the Levant, from 1096 to 1291, creating permanent trade colonies at major Eastern Mediterranean seaports. Bottlenecked by Pisa's strategic mercantile location, land-locked merchants and would-be crusaders from Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, and beyond posed as Pisans in the Latin Kingdom. The agreement was simple—"Tuscan pseudo-Pisans" (Abulafia 1982, 238) enjoyed commercial and residential privileges reserved for Pisans abroad, yet sacrificed identity and legal rights to the Pisan *comune*. These passages showcase a peculiar manifestation of civic consciousness in a legal setting—a 1245 court battle regarding the property of a deceased Sangimignanese in Syria and, more broadly, the status of Tuscan citizens in the Pisan Quarter of Crusader Acre. The first section outlines the court's strategy; the second provides the testimony of a witness. The documents reveal the autonomy experienced by resident minorities under the Pisan consular administration.

Did pseudo-Pisans sacrifice civic identity? How did this impact upon thirteenth-century Tuscan notions of *campanilismo*?